

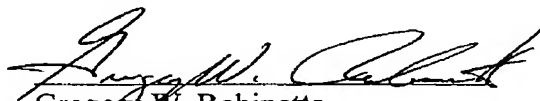
REMARKS

The courtesy of the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley, in granting the undersigned attorney a telephonic interview on March 13, 2007, is gratefully acknowledged. During the interview, it was discussed that the claimed invention is not shown or suggested in the Kiyooka et al. reference. Specifically, the Kiyooka et al. reference includes a block (14) disposed between the bore of the yoke housing and the ring, and therefore does not show or suggest a ring wherein the inner contact surfaces of the ring engages at least a portion of the inner surface of the bore and the outer contact surface of the ring engages at least a portion of the outer surface of the bearing, as claimed.

Additionally, the above amendments to independent Claims 1, 10, and 12 were discussed in light of the Phillips reference. Although no formal agreement was reached during the interview, the Examiner indicated that he understood the differences between the amended claim language and the disclosure of the prior art, that the amended claims appeared to define over the prior art, and further that he would reconsider the rejection in light of the amended claim language.

The Application should now be in proper form for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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